

Message Text

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NRC-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT LOUIS 0579

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, GB, MP, AO, SF, IS, UN, SU, KE, ET, EG, WZ, SE

SUBJECT: OAU SUMMIT OPENS

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 1276 (NOTAL), (B) LIBREVILLE 1305 (NOTAL),

(C) STATE 164550 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THIRTEENTH OAU ORDINARY SUMMIT OPENED IN MAURITIUS JULY 2. WELCOMING SPEECH BY MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM TOUCHED ON USUAL AFRICAN CONCERNS (SOUTH AFRICA, INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, ETC). REPLIES BY SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA AND EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK STRESSED MAURITIAN FRIENDSHIP, BEAUTY AND MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY. UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM, IN LENGTHY SPEECH, REVIEWED UN PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO AFRICA AND CALLED FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS LEADER OLIVER TAMBO OF SOUTH AFRICA SPOKE ON BEHALF OF

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LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. LONGEST SPEECH OF THE EVENING WAS

OAU CHAIRMAN IDI AMIN'S "HAND OVER SPEECH". SUMMIT ELECTED MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM OAU CHAIRMAN AND EIGHT VICE CHAIRMAN. SUMMIT WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF A COUP ATTEMPT IN SUDAN BUT WAS REASSURED BY SUDANESE DELEGATE THAT COUP HAD BEEN CRUSHED. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOTAM WELCOMED THE DELEGATES AND THEN REVIEWED PROBLEMS FACING AFRICA--"ALL OF SOUTH AFRICA IS IN FLAMES". HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER ANGOLA, LIKE CHINA, WILL WAIT YEARS TO BE ADMITTED TO THE UN. HE RE-ITERATED CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL FOR ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FRENCH WILL RECONSIDER DECISION TO SELL A NUCLEAR REACTOR TO SOUTH AFRICA AND WILL GIVE THE PEOPLE OF MAYOTTE TRUE INDEPENDENCE. RAMGOOLAM STATED THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE DEMILITARIZED AND BE MADE A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE. HE CALLED UPON AFRICAN NATIONS TO HELP SETTLE REFUGEES OR HELP THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELANDS. HE UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND SAID THAT THE ARAB BANK FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION WHICH MUST BE STRENGTHENED. COMMENT: RAMGOOLAM'S SPEECH, ALTHOUGH IT INCLUDED RITUAL ANTI-COLONIAL STATEMENTS, LACKED THE USUAL FIRE FOUND IN OAU FORG. IT RECEIVED POLITE IF UNENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE. END COMMENT.

2. PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL REPLIED FOR FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZING THAT MAURITIUS IS AN EXAMPLE TO AFRICA IN ITS SOCIALIST AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN MAURITIUS HAVE ENABLED THE PEOPLE HERE TO MAINTAIN A PLURALISTIC POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE MIDST OF A SOCIAL DEMOCRACY. THE MULTI-RACIAL AND MULTIBASIS CULTURAL OF MAURITIAN SOCIETY, SENGHOR SAID, HAS PRESAGED THE "PERFECT FUTURE OF OUR CONTINENT".

3. KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA ALSO COMMENTED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE WELL-BEING FOUND BY DELEGATES IN MAURITIUS--"WE FEEL AT HOME HERE MENTALLY, POLITICALLY AND CULTURALLY". HE REFERRED ONLY BRIEFLY TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE SAHARA AND CALLED FOR A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEM. HE CONCLUDED, "WE SHALL NOT BE DIVIDED" (MOTTO OF THE OAU).
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4. EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK PRAISED PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S PIONEER ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM. HE CALLED ANGOLA "THE MOST ELOQUENT EXPRESSION OF THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE". HE PRAISED BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS AND THOSE LIVING IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA FOR CONTINUING THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND DENOUNCED "ANOTHER RACIST COUNTRY WHICH IS OCCUPYING ANOTHER'S TERRITORY--ISRAEL".

MUBARAK CONGRATULATED CHAIRMAN IDI AMIN ON HIS WISDOM AND CAPABILITIES.

5. UN SECGEN WALDHEIM PRAISED RAMGOOLAV, WHO HAD RECEIVED THE 1973 UN HUMANIRIGHTS AWARD. HE CONGRATULATED AMIN FOR THE DYNAMIC EXECUTION OF HIS OFFICE. COMMENT: AMIN JOINED THE ASSEMBLY IN APPLAUDING HIMSELF. END COMMENT. WALDHEIM SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A TIME WHEN ALL FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN UN PROCEEDINGS ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY. PE CONGRATULATED THE SEYCHELLES ON ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE AND CALLED FOR MAJORITY RULE IN

ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TRANQUILITY IN LEBANON AND A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

6. ANC LEADER OLIVER TAMBO SPOKE ON BEHALF OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND SAID "THE HARDEST STRUGGLE FOR THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF THE CONTINENT IS JUST BEGINNING".

7. "HIS EXCELLENCY FIELD MARSHAL DR. HAJJI IDI AMIN OMAR DADA, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., LIFE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY FOR THE YEARS 1975-1976" HAD HIS FORMAL SPEECH READY BY UGANDAN MINISTER PAUL ETIANG. AFTER THE USUAL CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM, AMIN CALLED FOR AFRICAN "WOMENFOLK" TO JOIN "MENFOLK" IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ORDER "NOT TO BE LEFT BEHIND AND BE USED BY ANTI-DEMOCRATIC FORCES". HE REVIEWED HIS YEAR IN OFFICE AND CRITICIZED UNITA FOR FIGHTING MPLA FORCES IN ANGOLA. HE UNDERLINED SUPPORT FOR THE ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND HOPED THE LEADERSHIP CRISIS "IN BOTH FACTIONS" IN THE ANC WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON. HE ASKED THAT THE RESPONSES TO MOZAMBIQUE'S FINANCIAL NEEDS

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BE GENEROUS.

8. AMIN LINKED ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA IN A "RACIST CONSPIRACY" AND CONDEMNED SELLERS OF ARMS AND NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE TERMED THE RABIN-VORSTER TALKS "RACIST" AND SAID THAT AFRICA SHOULD BE EVEN MORE CONCERNED NOW, AS VORSTER WAS TALKING TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. THESE TALKS, HE ADDED, MUST BE AIMED AT FORGING A NEW STRATEGY TO INCREASE ZIONIST IMPERIALIST INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE APPEALED ESPECIALLY TO NATO POWERS TO REMEMBER THEIR HISTORIC ATTACHMENT TO LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY AND TO HELP OUST SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE UN AND ITS AGENCIES. HE RAISED AGAIN HIS PLAN TO CREATE A UNIFIED AFRICAN MILITARY COMMAND TO COUNTER THE SOUTH AFRICAN THREAT AND SAID THAT AT LEAST THOSE WHO ARE IMMEDIATELY THREATENED BY SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD FORM A REGIONAL

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9. AMIN'S SPEECH ASKED THAT THE FRENCH GRANT UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE TO DJIBOUTI AND REQUESTED NEIGHBORING STATES TO DO EVERYTHING TO EXPEDITE THAT INDEPENDENCE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THE TFAI WILL NOT BECOME A CAUSE OF CON- TENSION IN AFRICA AND THAT ALL OAU MEMBERS WOULD GUARANTEE DIJBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOV- EREIGNTY. IN HIS SPEECH, AMIN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ISSUE OF SAHARA WILL NO LONGER BE A PROBLEM IN AFRICAN MEETINGS.

10. AMIN ALSO REITERATED HIS PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION FOR AN AFRICAN BLOC VETO AT THE UN. THE AMERICAN VETO OF ANGOLA WAS A "DIRECT INSULT TO THE OAU". THE PROBLEM OF LAW OF THE SEA MUST BE RESOLVED, ACCORDING TO AMIN. HE THEN PROPOUNDED AT LENGTH THE POSITION OF LANDLOCKED AFRICAN STATES.

11. IN SOME EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS DELIVERED IN HIS OWN
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INIMITABLE STYLE, AMIN REFERRED TO THE RECENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN KAMPALA, WHICH HE TERMED A SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK INTENDED TO PREVENT HIM FROM COMING TO MAURITIUS TO GIVE HIS HANDOVER REPORT. AMIN THEN DENIED THAT UGANDA CLAIMS ANY NEIGHBORING TERRITORY AND HE REPEATED UGANDA'S RESPECT FOR THE OAU CHARTER PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR AFRICAN BORDERS DRAWN AT INDEPENDENCE. AMIN EXHORTED THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO BURY THEIR INTERNAL DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO PREVENT DIS-UNITY FROM THWARTING THEIR STRUGGLES. HE SUGGESTED THAT FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES BE BANNED FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES, FOR THEY REPORT FALSELY, SOW CONFUSION AND EVEN PROVOKE WARS. HE CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY EXPRESSING HIS READINESS TO FIGHT IAN SMITH OR ANYONE ELSE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA.

12. THE SUMMIT THEN ELECTED PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM AS OAU CHAIRMAN AND THE FOLLOWING VICE CHAIRMAN: PRIME MINISTER OF ANGOLA, PRIME MINISTER OF SEYCHELLES, PRESIDENT OF GABON, PMAC CHAIRMAN OF ETHIOPIA, VICE PRESIDENT OF KENYA, PRIME MINISTER OF SWAZILAND, VICE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT (EIGHTH VICE CHAIRMAN NOT HEARD).

13. A REQUEST WAS ENTERTAINED TO HAVE THE OAU INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF UNESCO SECGEN M'BOW WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN SURROUNDED, ALONG WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, BY REBEL TROOPS IN KHARTOUM. THE SUDANESE DELEGATE, HOWEVER, READ TWO NEWS REPORTS WHICH INDICATED THAT THE COUP ATTEMPT HAD BEEN CRUSHED.
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